



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



SA-01-97

Langley Research Center Safety Alert

Date: January 8, 1997

TO: All LaRC Employees
FROM: 421/Head, Office of Mission Assurance, OSEMA
SUBJECT: Safety and Mission Assurance Awareness Release


Recent discussions and activities about the Center have surfaced the need for the heightened awareness of three important Safety and Mission Assurance activities. They are: 1) the requirement and implementation of Product Assurance Plans from vendors; 2) the use of effective project change control and configuration management; and, 3) the timely reporting of safety and mission assurance incidents.


Project management and mission assurance personnel are responsible for developing and implementing assurance plans for projects. However, there have been instances when parts or services provided by vendors, with the potential for single point failures and high resultant equipment losses, have not had the appropriate level of product assurance. An effort to ensure the inclusion of product assurance requirements in acquisition activities must be made to negate this potential for mission failures. A review of aeronautics and space hardware and software procurements by the Office of Mission Assurance is required by LMI 5000.2, "Procurements."

Effective change control and configuration management activities must be performed within all LaRC projects. An effective change control system will establish a consistent process for the evaluation of changes and acceptance of risks. The configuration management element will ensure that the current configuration is reflected in the project documentation. Change control and configuration management requirements must be established at the project inception and included in the Product Assurance Plan. Project personnel, with assistance from the Office of Mission Assurance, are responsible for implementation of these requirements.

The Office of Safety, Environment and Mission Assurance (OSEMA) is to be notified upon occurrence of safety and mission assurance incidents (864-5600). Within the Center you may call 911 for notification. These reportable incidents are defined in NMI 8621.1F, "Mishap Reporting and Investigating," as any unplanned occurrence, event, or anomaly that results in personnel injury (more than first aid) and/or property damage equal to or greater than \$1,000. The OSEMA is required to notify NASA Headquarters, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, Code Q, for unplanned occurrences which result in hospitalization of personnel or property damage greater than \$25,000.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned to discuss this awareness release.


V. William Wessel
43365

421/HTG 

**THIS NOTICE TO BE POSTED ON FACILITY BULLETIN BOARDS FOR A
MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS**